

# RATNER: I MIGHT LEAVE NETS IN NJ

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner now says he'd consider keeping his New Jersey Nets in New Jersey if he failed to win approval for his contentious \$2.5 billion Atlantic Yards mega-development, which includes a new 19,000-seat basketball arena.

## Bernard King, key Ratner booster, is arrested: p6

"I think it would be in a situation, we'd probably re-work the Meadowlands or re-do the arena somehow," Ratner told the New York Times. "I'm not as

negative on the Meadowlands as some think." Ratner's comments appeared in the New Jersey edition of the Times on Sunday and were not published in copies of the Times circulated in New York City. It was the first time he publicly conceded that he would consider keeping the team at the

Meadowlands if his Brooklyn deal fell through. Ratner has declined to be interviewed by Brooklyn news media.

The Times interview also contained Ratner's first acknowledgment that an impending U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the use of eminent domain might affect his ability to seize 10 acres of private land in  
See **JERSEY** on page 6

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 30, 2004

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**THIS WEEKEND**

## Peek a boo!

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

Don't be spooked by an invasion of little witches, goblins, devils and other creatures of the night at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on Sunday, Oct. 31. They're just kids converging on the otherwise stately garden grounds for the annual "Ghouls and Ghouls Celebration" which includes a costume contest, larger than life puppets from Flying Bridge Community Arts, and a "haunted highway" in the children's garden.

Live entertainment will be provided by a capella legends, The Persuasions; big top talents, the Piccolo Circus; storyteller Zena Cheza Oriolla

(also known as "Mama O") and much more.

Perhaps the biggest gross out of them all, a display of "compost tricks" will feature worms and other creepy natural wonders from noon to 3:30 pm in the cherry esplanade.

The Halloween-themed events take place in the cherry esplanade as well as the children's garden, from noon to 4:30 pm, rain or shine. The costume parade kicks off from the cherry esplanade at 3:30 pm. The "Ghouls and Ghouls" events are free with garden admission (\$5, \$3 students and seniors, free children under 16). Enter the garden at Washington Avenue and Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights. For more information, visit [www.bbg.org](http://www.bbg.org) or call (718) 623-7333.

**GO BROOKLYN PAPER**

# Starry night

## 'Neverland' premieres at Museum

By Jess Wisloski

The water fountain was sprinkling, search lights were swirling and more stars filled the red carpet than the sky on Monday night when Brooklyn hosted its first full-fledged movie premiere with a screening of the new Johnny Depp film, "Finding Neverland."

Kate Winslet (accompanied by director husband Sam Mendes), who co-stars with no-show Depp, joined Dustin Hoffman and Radha Mitchell—who also star in the film—and Glenn Close and Brooklyn-born Tony Danza, among others. Elected officials such as Sen. Hillary Clinton, Borough President Marty Markowitz and state Sen. Carl Andrews turned out to welcome Hollywood to Brooklyn.

Hordes of photographers stood behind pens and flashed away as Hoffman, Winslet, Miramax chairman Harvey Weinstein and actor John Turturro, who lives in Park Slope, walked by, but a smaller group of fans stood behind barriers closer to Eastern Parkway, just before the red carpet opened up towards the museum's glass plaza entrance, hoping to get a glimpse, autograph or photo of themselves with one of the marquee-makers.

Sky Jenkins, 30, said Hoffman was more than willing to pose for two pictures with him. "He said, 'Hello,'" recalled Jenkins, who said that when he asked for a picture, "he said, 'Sure.'"

"He's a legendary actor," added Jenkins.

See **PREMIERE** on page 6



Borough President Marty Markowitz and Academy Award-winner Dustin Hoffman.

## Student wager sends X-men to Beantown

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

It seemed as much a sure thing as Mariano Rivera in the ninth.

But when students from Xaverian High School in Bay Ridge accepted a friendly baseball wager from one of their sister schools in Massachusetts, the last thing they expected was that they'd end up donning Red Sox jerseys in Beantown.

Which is exactly what will happen two weeks from now when half a dozen Xaverian students, most of them juniors, journey across enemy lines as a result of the Boston Red Sox' historic comeback from 3-0 against the New York Yankees in the American League Championship Series. The unlikely vacation stems from a bet extended by Malden Catholic High School, a private boys academy just outside Boston, in which the American League pennant race was the contest and community service was the ante.

The schools made a pact in which the losing team's students would have to spend a day in the winning team's city, sweeping street corners, washing windows and picking up trash. Because of the Bombers' unexpected October collapse, the winnings will be collected, so to speak, in Massachusetts on Nov. 9, in the chagrin of the Brooklyn students, Yankees fans all.

"I think we were all sort of depressed that they lost," said Luigi Fuschetto, 16, who will join others on the all-day community-service effort. "Whatever the deal is, it's not like it's a bad thing—I just would have rather done it in New York than in Boston. Whatever helps the world, though, right?"

The good-natured, and selfless, wager was proposed after it became clear that officials at both schools that, much

See **SAWX** on page 6



Xaverian High School teacher Robert Oliva (center) and his students are heading to Malden Catholic High School in Massachusetts to make good on an American League wager.

## City: Cruise ships at Pier 12 by summer

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklynites can expect to see a cruise ship terminal completed as early as next summer, city officials announced Tuesday before a joint City Council committee hearing.

And if the cruise ship terminal, to be built at Pier 12, is successful, Piers 10 and 11 could be cleared of existing maritime businesses by as early as 2007.

The American Stevedoring cargo

company currently uses those piers and is awaiting Port Authority of New York and New Jersey approval for a lease extension that would consolidate their operations onto Piers 8-10 for the next three years. But the city's Economic Development Corporation, the agency charged with implementing the \$150 million cruise ship venture, hopes down the line to "morph" Piers 10 and 11, into use exclusively for cruise ships.

The outcome, EDC Vice President Kate Ascher told the council members, will depend on the success of the

cruise industry at Red Hook's Pier 12.

The meeting was dominated by Brooklyn council members, including David Yassky, Diana Reyna, Letitia James, Erik Martin Dilan, Vincent Gentile, Sara Gonzalez, and Yvette Clarke. It was hosted by the Waterfronts and Economic Development committees.

"I think it is plain, Mr. Chair, that Brooklyn's in the house," Yassky said drolly to Councilman James Sanders Jr., chairman of the Economic Development committee, as he introduced each member coming in.

Yassky, who chairs the Waterfronts committee, did much of the questioning, probing EDC officials about forecasts for the development, and other members took turns asking just what Red Hook could expect to see of boat traffic, jobs and traffic remediation in the months and years ahead.

Ascher used a slide presentation and indicated that in June the Carnival and Norwegian cruise lines had signed "patronage commitments," or letters of agreement, to use New York City exclusively for their area ports, to pay raised tariff fees

through 2017 that would supply \$200 million and would be increased each year following completion of the developments, and commit to broadening their tourist base by helping promote the city to customers, which Carnival CEO Howard Frank said includes "adding extra overnight stays in New York."

In return, the city will supply \$150 million over 10 years for renovations of the berths already in use on the West Side of Manhattan (which are currently undergoing using another \$51 million in city funds), and to develop

a terminal and berth for use by ships of all sizes in Brooklyn, that could also help absorb the overflow during Manhattan's improvements.

Ascher discussed renderings of a master plan at the hearing, which depicted a bright, open terminal built in an already existing warehouse, and showed people in lines similar to those at an airport.

Ascher said the schematic design was being reviewed by EDC's oversight committee.

As many as 600 new jobs, said

See **CRUISE** on page 15



Actress Eva LaRue flashes a smile on the red carpet that stretched from Eastern Parkway to the Brooklyn Museum's new glass entrance.



"Finding Neverland" producer Richard Gladstein, director Marc Foster and star Kate Winslet pose with Sen. Hillary Clinton at the premiere.

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## Gentile charges 'frivolous'

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

Bay Ridge Councilman Vincent Gentile met this week for the first time with representatives of the committee investigating claims that he sexually harassed a former chief of staff, his lawyer said.

Thomas Bello, the civil rights and employment lawyer retained by Gentile in the wake of the sex-abuse allegations, said in a prepared statement on Wednesday that Gentile was made privy for the first time to claims filed by former aide John Martin.

Characterizing the allegations as frivolous, Bello said in the statement that he and Gentile were confident a recommendation for full dismissal would be made by the council's Fair Intervention committee when it sends its report to the Standards and Ethics committee. That committee is currently holding closed-door hearings involving Queens Councilman Allan Jennings, who is accused of harassing four female council employees, two of whom worked in his district office.

"We are happy to report that following a meeting between council member Gentile, myself and representatives from the committee investigating the claims of John Martin, it is clear that only a full and complete dismissal of these claims would represent justice," Bello said in his statement.

"After our review of the specific allegations, we were able to address all the allegations with accurate and truthful information," the statement continues. "Following this clarification of the facts we are confident that the committee shall now recommend immediate action amounting to nothing short of a complete dismissal of the complaint."

A lawyer for Martin, however, called Bello's comments

"speculative," and added that investigators were still interviewing the 26-year-old, Bronx-born former teacher, who resigned in September after charging that Gentile relentlessly extended invitations to movies, bars and trips out of state while also suggesting that the aide share an apartment with him.

"Attorney Bello's comments constitute unsupported speculation and wishful thinking," said Paul Callan, a Manhattan-based attorney who has also represented such boldface Hollywood names as Leonardo DiCaprio. "He doesn't say the City Council has decided to make a recommendation. He parses his words very carefully."

"Bello has his opinion and Mr. Martin has his own opinion," the lawyer added. Callan said that the official claim, released to Gentile more than a month after its existence was reported in the press, is no different than what had been made public in a four-page statement by Martin that was released to the press on Sept. 30.

A source close to the Standards and Ethics committee said on Wednesday that because members were busy in glacially paced hearings over Jennings, Gentile's case has not been a priority.

The source also said that Tom Shanahan, an openly gay civil rights attorney who last month came forward with claims that he and Gentile had a consensual affair, would likely not be interviewed by the committee. Shanahan had sent a letter to the committee in September pledging that he would reveal details of his 1994 tryst if they believed it would illuminate the case. A source close to the committee said it would not.

Gentile has denied he is gay. "They won't bother with that," said the source. "The investigation has nothing to do with whether Gentile is or isn't gay."



The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

## Pratt attack

Dan Fisher in front of his sculpture during the Pratt Art Fair on Hall Street in Clinton Hill on Oct. 16. The all-day street fair showcased local artists and galleries.

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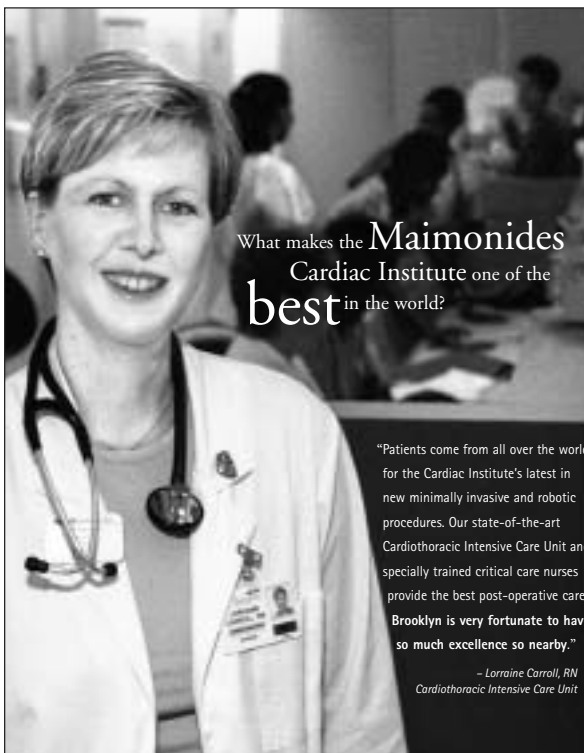
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# 2 stabbed on Court

## POLICE

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Two women were stabbed while walking together along Court Street on Oct. 23 around 2:20 a.m.

As they crossed between Schermerhorn and State streets, a stranger came up to them and hit one, a 17-year-old, with a sharp object. She was stabbed in the face several times, sustaining two cuts.

When her 20-year-old friend tried to come to her defense, she too was struck.

The attacker turned on her with the same sharp item and stabbed her in the back, causing a laceration and bleeding.

Both sought help at Long Island College Hospital, and a police canvass did not turn up a suspect.

### Got the business

A 22-year-old Brooklyn Heights woman returned from a business trip Oct. 19 at 7:20 p.m. to find her apartment had been ransacked and she'd been robbed.

The apartment, on Willow Street between Cranberry and Orange streets, had been entirely locked, including the window, which was open when she returned. A DVD player and \$400 in cash was missing.

### At your own risk

A 22-year-old Brooklyn Heights man was robbed while walking near the northwest corner of Red Cross Plaza and Cadman Plaza East on Oct. 17 at 9:25 p.m.

He was crossing the street when he said he was approached by a man wielding a black handgun.

"Give me all your cash," the stranger demanded, and the man complied. But just as the thug turned away, he noticed a cell phone on the man, and took that as well.

The perp fled westbound



## Kane Street dedication

Kane Street Synagogue Rabbi Samuel H. Weintraub affixes a mezuzah to the door frame of the Sol & Lillian Goldman Educational Center at the center's dedication on Sunday. Over 300 attended, walking through a large social hall and atrium which now joins the synagogue and the 149-year-old center building. The center, largely funded by a \$1 million donation by the Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust, took two years to complete, and included restoration of its granite facade and the doubling of classroom space with the addition of a third floor. As part of the festivities, an exhibit of donated and unearthed artifacts from the mid-1800s, and silver Torah covers from the 1920s, were displayed. The artifacts will again be displayed on Sunday, Nov. 14, during a performance celebrating the anniversary of the bar mitzvah of prestigious congregant Aaron Copland that will feature small ensemble performances of his work.

—Jess Wisloski

through Cadman Plaza Park towards Cadman Plaza West, and made off with \$15 and a \$200 cell phone.

### If I had a hammer

A 44-year-old Brooklyn Heights man was assaulted in his own apartment by a woman who banged her way in with a hammer.

On Oct. 21 at 12:30 a.m. the man was sitting alone in the study of his apartment on Court Street between State and Schermerhorn streets when he heard someone banging on the door.

His attacker entered the room and began to swing the

hammer about at him.

Police arrested a 44-year-old woman and charged her with assault.

### I can't help you

A deli in Downtown Brooklyn was invaded by a wannabe robber who made off with nothing thanks to the shop owner's complete lack of acknowledgment.

The shop, on the corner of Tech Place and Gold Street, was being manned by one person on Oct. 21 at 6:24 a.m. when the would-be robber appeared.

As the shopkeeper emerged from downstairs with supplies, he noticed that there was a man near

the store's front counter. As soon as he caught the robber's eye, he exposed a gun protruding from the waistband of his pants.

"Give me the money or I will shoot you," he said. But the deli man did not appear to take notice. Instead of yelling for help or emptying the register, he ignored the man's request and went on with his business.

When a customer entered the store, the perp fled, but with the deli only steps away from the 84 Precinct, a suspect was arrested soon after. Police arrested a 24-year-old man found with a black starter pistol on him who was walking a few blocks away.

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# 10G in eatery heist

## POLICE

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

A 40-year-old man closing up a Park Slope restaurant was assaulted at 1:20 am on Oct. 24 when two robbers tied him up and made off with the eatery's earnings for the night.

The man was locking up the restaurant on Garfield Place between Sixth and Seventh avenues when two men approached him and, at knifepoint, forced him back inside. Once inside, the two men used duct tape to cover the victim's mouth and bound his hands together.

The victim told police that a third man, who was wearing a black mask, entered and told the first two to throw the man to the ground and carry him to the back area of the restaurant.

They made off with \$10,000 in cash, his blue Nike bag, cell phone, check book, and wallet filled with credit cards.

The man waited until he couldn't hear any noise and managed to struggle loose from the tape. He locked the restaurant up and went to the owner's other restaurant in Williamsburg, where he reported the story to his boss, who soon called police.

**While they slept**

A Park Slope couple awoke at 5:30 am on Oct. 20 to find a burglar standing over them in their bedroom attempting to make off with some articles of clothing.

The husband, 31, awoke in his bed in the apartment on Sixth Avenue between Garfield Place and First Street, to find a man standing near the door of the bedroom, clutching a knife.

When the husband started to get up, the man growled, "Stay back or I will kill you."

The wife, 24, then awoke, and they both watched as the perpetrator took a pair of jeans and a hooded sweater from their room. The bandit fled through the kitchen window of the apartment into an alley way.

**Bottle rocket**

A 15-year-old Columbia Heights boy was assaulted with a glass bottle by another teenager near Flatbush Avenue and Grand Army Plaza at the entrance to the 2/3 trains at 2:15 pm on Oct. 21.

The stranger came up to the boy and asked, "What school did you go to?"

When the boy replied, "Clara Barton," and kept walking, the attacker grew angry.

"Turn around before I throw this bottle at you," he said.

The boy continued walking, and as he turned to look back, the attacker threw a glass bottle at him, which hit him on his left arm, slicing it open.

**Gang attack**

A 17-year-old boy from Staten Island was riding the northbound R train when he was attacked for trying to defend a friend's property on Oct. 22 at 2:30 pm near the Smith-9th Street subway station.

The boy and his female friend, 14, were riding on the train, when one man in a group of five older teenagers approached her and tried to take her bracelet.



## Kane Street dedication

Kane Street Synagogue Rabbi Samuel H. Weintraub affixes a mezuzah to the door frame of its educational center dedicated Sunday. Artifacts from the mid-1800s, and silver torah covers from the 1920s, were displayed inside. The artifacts will be seen again Nov. 14 during an event celebrating the anniversary of the bar mitzvah of prestigious congregant Aaron Copland.

When the boy intervened, the four friends grabbed him, and held him back, and the first man searched him and stole his wallet from a pocket.

### Pocket picked

A man had his wallet lifted while shopping at a grocery store on Hamilton Place and 12th Street on Oct. 15 at 3:16 pm.

When he went to check out, he discovered that his wallet was missing. Inside it was \$200 in cash, his driver's license, vehicle registration, a LIRR pass, MetroCard, and American Express, which he said was used soon after to purchase a \$70 MetroCard.

### Identity theft

A 46-year-old Park Slope woman discovered that she'd been robbed of \$2,774 without ever having had anything stolen from her wallet.

She realized that she'd been the target of an identity theft when she received a notice of transaction by her bank, which alerted her on Oct. 19 that from Oct. 11-15, somebody had withdrawn the money from her bank account without ever having had access to her ATM card.

### Ransacked

A 35-year-old man returned to his apartment on 15th Street between Third and Fourth avenues on Oct. 19 at 5 pm to find it had been ransacked and pilloaged of his valuables.

Missing was \$600, and assorted chains, bracelets, ladies earrings, rings, a DVD player, various DVDs, his Social Security card, passports and birth certificates.

### No more laptop

When a 47-year-old man riding home on the number 2 train arrived at the exit on Flatbush Avenue and Bergen Street in Park Slope he discovered that his laptop computer had been stolen.

The man had placed the laptop in its carrying case in between his legs, and momentarily dozed off, on Oct. 18 at about 5:30 pm. When he was startled awake, he noticed find the property was gone.

At less than a year old, the laptop was worth \$1,800, he told police.

### What a feeling

A 36-year-old Park Slope woman found a car she'd parked at 7 pm on Oct. 23 between the northeast corner of Eighth Avenue and Third Street was gone when she returned to it at 7:30 pm, with only a bit of broken glass, where it had been parked.

The 1997 Toyota Corolla was parked a few blocks from the friend's house she was visiting, but a police canvass turned up no leads, and no towing reports were found.

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Notice of Formation of SHIRAS KARMA, LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC), Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State on 10/26/04, NY office location: 40055 County Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC service address to the LLC at 1228 Flatbush Avenue, PMB 341, Brooklyn, NY 11218. Latest date to dissolve: there is no specified date of dissolution. Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity.

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# Boerum Hillers upset with a legal addition

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Plans by a Boerum Hill homeowner to build a legal, three-story addition to the back of her brick townhouse have infuriated neighbors to the point where they have taken to creating a list of real estate agents who agree not to represent what they see as invasive development in the historic neighborhood.

Excavation for the expansion began Oct. 14.

"We're not going to make a blacklist," said Andrew Beckman, a homeowner who lives at 151 Bergen St., next door to the building in question. "We're going to make a green list."

"When it comes time for us to sell or rent or buy buildings, we'll work off of that list," said Beckman.

More urgently, he hopes, the list will prevent the type of plans 149 Bergen St. owner Patricia Costa is undertaking to add a three-story, nearly 21-foot-long extension to her building, which Beckman says will block sunlight to the neighboring homes.

When Beckman, a cinematographer, and his wife, Wendy Dor, a radio producer, moved into the Boerum Hill Historic District two years ago, they assumed landmark protection would insure a perfect sanctuary in which to raise children, with birds chirping and leaves rustling in their backyard.

That was before they found out about the new construction. Costa's permit was issued on Oct. 6 and, having met requirements of keeping 30 feet of yard in the rear and having Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) approval, the extension was deemed legal, said Kenneth Lazar, a community liaison at the city Department of Buildings.

LPC approval noted the unique appearance of the "row of 15 modified Italian-style brick row houses" built between 1871 and 1873.

The addition, which will feature a stucco side wall, aluminum-clad windows, wooden doors and openings to allow light and air to pass through, reaches three of the four stories of the building, which will be



Adam Beckman on the deck of his Boerum Hill home at 151 Bergen St. overlooking neighboring 149 Bergen St.

converted from an eight-unit house to two units.

"The rear of the building involved will retain the scale and character of an individual row house," the permit states.

But while the addition adheres to all regulations, Beckman doesn't believe that makes it right.

"It's completely flush across," he said, gesturing from his deck to the buildings along the yards, just over the dug trenches in the backyard of 149 Bergen St. "Neighbors talk to each other out the windows."

Pietro Costa, husband of the owner and a real estate sales agent, said the green list was nothing more than a retaliation against him and his business.

"This has all been a campaign of libelous accusation," he told The Brooklyn Papers.

Costa said false accusations were printed in newspapers regarding the size of the extension, and charged that he has been harassed constantly by representatives from the Buildings and Sanitation departments as a result of what he thinks is a campaign of 311 complaints to the city lodged by his neighbors.

"We're going from a slum to a neighborhood that's going through a renaissance to back to a slum," he said. "People don't move out here for that."

Councilman David Yassky agreed, and helped arrange a meeting between concerned petition-signers and Department of Buildings Borough Commissioner South Hinkson, who talked with them about arranging a public hearing about the extension.

Although Wolfe, who is also a real estate agent, said she knows other extensions have succeeded in the past, they were on a much smaller scale.

"In the past we're talking eight feet, 10 feet at the most, and only one story or two stories at the most, which doesn't intrude to the extent that three stories, 21-foot-long does," she said.

"We see this as a trend," she said. The association is also working with Yassky's on setting up a public hearing.

That issue hasn't come before the board, but we firmly support the idea that it's very worrisome what's happening to backyards," Wolfe said.

Dorr's vision was more frightful: the "great big park"—the street's backyards—her agent showed her when they first bought the house turning into a "giant dark canyon" if other neighbors also build.

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# Key Ratner booster accused of spousal abuse

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Former Knicks and Nets basketball star Bernard King, a key pointman in Bruce Ratner's campaign to win approval for the Atlantic Yards mega-development, was arrested Saturday and charged with three counts of

assault against his wife of seven years.

Two days after the 5:35 a.m. arrest, Forest City Ratner executive vice president Bruce Bender said the company would "have nothing to do with him," if the charges were true.

A Forest City source told The Brooklyn Papers the following day that regardless, "He's done.

It's over."

King, 47, who was born in Fort Greene and attended Fort Hamilton High School in Bay Ridge, had provided public relations and community outreach in the area surrounding the Atlantic Yards site in Prospect Heights. King and his wife, Shana, 35, who live in Atlanta, were staying at Ratner's Embassy Suites hotel in Battery Park City when em-

ployees of the hotel contacted police over noise complaints. Police busted in and found Shana bruised and swollen on her forehead and right eye.

King described the charges of domestic violence as "unfathomable," and told the New York Post that the charges would be dropped.

On Thursday, the 6-foot-7 Star sat quietly in a courtroom at 100 Centre St. in Manhattan, his head hanging and hands folded in his lap.

A trial date was set for Jan. 6, 2005, and after King was handed his notice, he was ushered into a stairwell where he hid out until he could leap into a deep waiting for him in front of the building.

He was accompanied only by his attorney.

King was hired by Ratner's group in late 2003 on a contractual basis, and since then has made major promotional appearances, worked as a consultant, approached the City Council on behalf of the project, and helped

set up a basketball summer program for area youth.

Bertha Lewis, director of Acorn NY, a housing advocacy group working on developing a community benefits agreement with Forest City Ratner, said she didn't meet King, and he didn't strike her as a violent type.

"When I ran into him I always liked being with him," she said. "He always struck me as being a gentleman." She said she did not think that losing him would affect public view of the arena proposal.

"Bernard King doesn't sway anybody," she said, and thought the merit of the arena would be judged on its own.

James Caldwell of BUILD, another group working with Ratner's company, was more empathetic towards King, and thought his presence did help generate support for the project.

"I'm in the same age bracket with Bernard King," he said. "I love sports, and I loved basketball as a sport in particular. To see him as part of the project, it certainly touched me. Because he was a great ball player — and to see that he came from the Fort Greene housing developments — for someone to come from a place like he did and to achieve what he achieved, it was wonderful."

But Scott Turner, of Fans for Fair Play, an anti-arena group, disagreed.

"Primarily he was used as a hood ornament, at least that's how it always came across to me," he said.

King, who is the perfect example: Forest City Ratner when they engaged him, they think are culturally relevant, they usually tend not to be, or turn out to be very clumsy maneuvers in and out of the arena."

He said choosing Stephan Marbury or Albert King, Bernard's brother, would have been wiser for a spokesperson than someone with a "record of abusing women."

According to the New York Daily News, King pleaded guilty in 1980 to charges of attempted forcible sexual abuse. In 1994, he was charged with third degree assault after a woman claimed he choked her in his Manhattan apartment.

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## JERSEY...

Continued from page 1

Prospect Heights' Atlantic Yards. The project also includes a high-rise housing and office complex.

After the Brooklyn Papers began asking about Ratner's comments in the Times, a Forest City Ratner spokesman responded with a positive spin.

"There's no reason to think the team is not moving to Brooklyn for the 2007 season," said spokesman Joe DePasco. "Everything is moving along as smoothly as possible and we anticipate it will be a tremendous success."

"It will not fall through," he said.

Probed further about Ratner's comments on the possibility of the Nets remaining in New Jersey, DePasco refused to comment. He denied requests for an interview with Ratner directly.

Sports fans and followers of the development are not so sure.

With the loss of four of the team's six top players from last

year, not to mention the unadvised plan to move into Brooklyn and a drop in ticket sales from last year, some say the now-lackluster franchise is losing steam.

Linda Angerville, site administrator for basketballny.com and executive director of Bin-go's All-Stars Sports Foundation, which runs after-school and summer basketball programs for kids, was stunned by Ratner's statement.

"Up until now that hasn't been mentioned; there was this big emphasis on how he's so dead-set on bringing sports back to Brooklyn. That's really surprising that he would say that."

An even bigger champion of the Nets move to Brooklyn, Borough President Marty Markowitz, would likely be even more surprised. Markowitz declined to comment.

Angerville said she suspects that Ratner's statement may mean the project is being derailed.

"The true Nets fans here [in Brooklyn] would love to see the

move happen regardless; they would love them to be here," she said, but added, "Brooklynites just want a team. They just want to see a team and see the stadium built."

The long wait, however, may lose many fans on either side of the Hudson along the way. "Jersey fans just feel really disenfranchised and real messed over," she said.

"I can't say it's a dead project, but I think whoever they [Forest City Ratner] do have in their camp is probably putting in some long hours, because it's a hard sell now."

Neil deMause, co-author of "Field of Schemes: How the Great Stadium Swindle Turns Public Money Into Private Profit," said he's not so sure the loss of players would cause a financial chokehold, but said it sounded as if Ratner was trying to keep some lifelines open.

"It's interesting he didn't say 'Well, the Brooklyn deal's going to go through.' It certainly sounds like he's not trying to burn some bridges, which makes you wonder if the deal's really as sure as he says it is," said deMause.

## PREMIERE...

Continued from page 1

Markowitz, who co-hosted the event with Clinton, greeted each guest, pressing a gold "Brooklyn" lapel pin into each star's hand. As Hoffman was ushered by with a publicist, Markowitz took the opportunity to try and draft the well-known basketball fan to his efforts to bring a professional team to Brooklyn. "We got the Nets now, did you hear about that? Now just help me get the arena!"

Hoffman smiled politely, and then brushed on by.

Clinton told The Brooklyn Papers why she got involved in helping push for a movie premiere in Brooklyn.

"Well, Harvey's got a big heart," she said, referring to Miramax chief Weinstein. "I thought that bringing a magical movie to a magical place like Brooklyn really made sense."

The screening was held on the third floor of the museum and a string quartet played music from the soundtrack on the stage as people found their seats.

Sitting on the fold-out chairs were former Monkee Mickey Dolenz, as well as Ben Stiller with wife Christine Taylor, and Chelsea Clinton.

Clinton owes Sen. Hillary Clinton a big round of applause for pushing one of the first movie premieres to come to Brooklyn," said Markowitz, introducing the senator to the stage.

He also welcomed "home" brothers Harvey and Bob Weinstein, "two Brooklyn boychicks who prove once you're a Brooklynite you're always a Brooklynite."

Clinton was greeted with a roar of applause as she walked out to the stage.

"When Marty and I first started talking about his love for Brooklyn, his passion for Brooklyn, his obsession with Brooklyn, we naturally started talking about the great entertainers, artists and performers of all kinds to come out of this borough," said the former first lady.

"In a weak moment," Clinton jokingly said, she agreed to get Markowitz a movie premiere.

By wrangling her "dear friend Harvey [Weinstein], who is from Brooklyn and has a love for films that I really admire," she said she was a "translator and a bridge for these two guys from Brooklyn."

Weinstein called the museum "a beautiful venue," as he gazed around the white-marble room where partygoers helped themselves to bacon-wrapped scallops and wasabi-shrimp appetizers. Weinstein said he'd "definitely" consider it for future premieres.

Markowitz, leaving with his wife, Jamie, said he saw the film as a story about dreams.

"That includes Atlantic Avenue with the Nets coming to Brooklyn, and that includes other major development projects that will bring Brooklyn into the new era," Markowitz said.

The film, which was adapted from a play about Peter Pan author J.M. Barrie and his relationship with the family that inspired his own play, took place in London, and despite its family-friendly story, had much of the audience sobbing toward the end. It opens in theaters on Nov. 12.

## SAWX...

Continued from page 1

like last year, the Eastern Division rivals would be facing off in post-season action. The Yankees had destroyed the Minnesota Twins and the Red Sox had had their way with the Anaheim Angels.

But what came next, said Don Martelli, a spokesman for Malden, was nothing short of extraordinary.

"We're still speechless," said Martelli, 30, director of marketing and communications for Malden, a school of about 700 students. "I mean, we're usually the team making the base-running error. My pain goes all the way back to 1986. It was the first time I actually said a cuss word in front of my parents."

The Red Sox, famed more for its foibles than its formidableity, ranks second only to the Chicago Cubs in years since conquering the World Series, in part thanks to memorable gaffs like the 12th-inning ball-between-the-legs error made by Bill Buckner in Game 6 of the 1986 World Series against the New York Mets.

The Sox had been championshipless for 86 straight seasons, until this week, when they swept the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series, winning eight straight games since being down 3-0 to the Yanks.

By comparison, the Yankees have won 16 World Series rings in the 101-year history of the franchise. In short, the wager presented itself as a no-brainer, said Robert Oliva, a Xaverian alumnus and development associate at the school. He teaches sophomore religion and will chaperone the students on their voyage toward humble pie.

"They were very into it, and they had this feeling that this was the Red Sox' year," Oliva said of the proposition first floated by officials at Malden. "But we took it because it was a win-win situation. I mean, I said to them, 'Listen, I think you're crazy,' but we figured it was easy money."

And it certainly seemed that way at first. Over the first three games, Derek Jeter, Mariana Rivera and Bernie Williams predictably cruised passed the Sox. But the tables turned following a pair of extra-innings games.

If possible, the expectations were even higher for Xaverian than for New York as a whole. Although neither star actually studied at the respected private school at 7100 Shore Road, both Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio have tenuous connections to the 47-year-old institution.

Oliva, himself a Yankees fan, said that DiMaggio's link, more than anything, is spiritual, in part through his legacy of selfishness that includes his time spent working with young people. Ruth on the other hand was afforded his first opportunity to tryout for the big league thanks to Brother Mathias, a disciplinarian at St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys, in Baltimore, which, like Xaverian, is a Jesuit school.

Despite his roots in Maryland, Ruth bonded with Mathias before becoming a big-league name. Even after the fact, the Sultan of Swat, as the story goes, met with Mathias several times a year for rounds of golf. But despite the folkloric connections to Yankees past, the students at Xaverian could not defend against what one daily newspaper described as "Hell Freezes Over."

"When they lost that first game, I said to the guys, 'Don't worry, it's just one game,'" said Oliva. "But as it became five games, and then six games, we were, like, 'Oh no, this is not happening.'"

"It's a little upsetting," he said.

"The Red Sox jerseys, that's tough. Never in a million years did they think they'd have to wear Curt Schilling and Manny Rodriguez jerseys. It's too much."

Asked if the schools would consider a double-or-nothing wager on the result of the presidential election, Oliva seemed less confident than he had been before the Yankees losing spree.

"I don't know," he laughed, before acknowledging Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry's roots to Boston. "That's a Kerry country."

## Getting it right...

Last week's front page, under a photo captioned "Them's fightin' words," gave the wrong date for the presidential election. The election is Tuesday, Nov. 2.

The Brooklyn Papers strives for accuracy, but sometimes mistakes are made. In such cases, readers are urged to contact Managing Editor Neil Stoen at (718) 834-9350, ext. 119, or fax to (718) 834-9278.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

October 30, 2004

# DUMBO chainsaw massacre

Artist bends thousands of blocks of ice to his will with picks, saws

By Christina Rogers  
for The Brooklyn Papers

With a Marlboro dangling from the corner of his mouth, Joe O'Donoghue hoists the hefty rotating chainsaw blade high above his right shoulder, pauses for a moment and sends the clumsy blade down upon an ice slab, casting aside a luminous arch of snow-slavings.

He makes one incision and then another, the cigarette burning between his lips, until a small chip slides away from the main section, revealing the delicate curve of a woman's hip. He steps back into one of the many glacier-like puddles that swamp his studio and exhales.

The hip belongs to one of his latest works, a collection of ice sculptures for the premiere of tennis player Serena Williams' new clothing line. The crystal-clear mannequin glistens in the industrial lighting — only a torso because, O'Donoghue says, the "arms often break off during shipping."

"Ice does not handle detail well, so I have to reinterpret everything I try to replicate," O'Donoghue explains. "Each block of ice is 40 inches high, 20 inches wide and 10 inches deep. As ice sculptors, we are trapped in that zone."

But for this DUMBO-based sculptor, these physical restrictions only serve as fuel to his agile imagination. Now 39, O'Donoghue has jockeyed his way through the ranks and the culinary arts, transforming a medium once relegated to wedding receptions and lavish but miztvals to an art form and celebrity-must-have.

Along the way, he has accumulated a lengthy star-studded client list, a U.S. patent on his "Frozen Fountain" and even an Emmy for sculptures he built for NBC's introductory segments of the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

Tall and lean, with a bronze tan and a coarse Long Island brogue, O'Donoghue does not resemble the typical white-clad culinary artisan, nor does his work, which can range anywhere from figurative replicas of persons and objects to colossal constructions occupying the width and height of an entire room and weighing in at three tons.

One of his most recent projects, an installation for the premiere of the movie "The Day After Tomorrow," buried a section of the Museum of Natural History in more than a thousand, 300-pound blocks of ice.

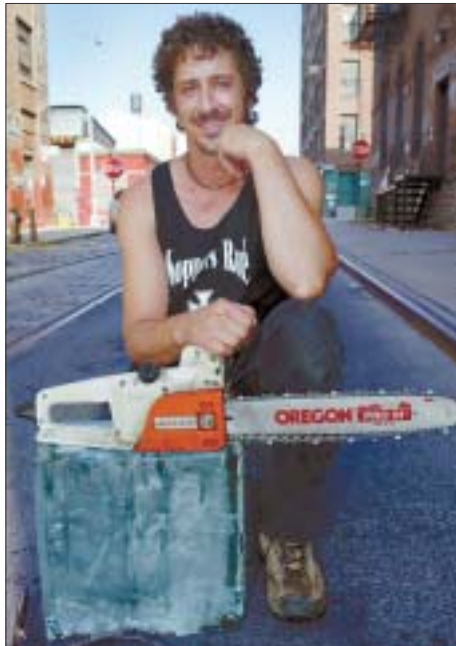
While stunts like this have made him a superstar among some of New York City's entertainment giants, O'Donoghue only mentions his celebrity clients in passing.

Between gulps of coffee, he rattles off the names of famed artists and media personalities, including Martha Stewart, Sean "P-Diddy" Combs and photographer David LaChapelle, making a brief detour from the list to discuss a party he worked on for Britney Spears.

"The party was for her [then-boyfriend] Justin Timberlake. It was his 21st birthday," he recalls. "I made her this heart-shaped centerpiece. It was a good party, but I am not really into her music." Then, he moves on to what he really wants to talk about — ice.

"I never see ice as anything but ice," he says, peering himself on a row of plush turquoise car seats that doubles as a sofa in his studio. "Sometimes I have to teach this to my clients. You can't think of it as what you want it to do but what it can do."

His studio occupies the basement and top floor of a converted warehouse building in DUMBO, where the hum of chainsaws at 4 a.m. is not an uncommon presence in this rapidly gentrifying artist enclave. The minimalist loft



Been around the block: Ice artist Joe O'Donoghue founded Ice Fantasies, a DUMBO-based production company that hand-carves ice sculptures for photo shoots, television and live performances.

space, where he lives and works, is starkly furnished with objects picked-up off the street or wood pieces made in his shop downstairs. Having finished his coffee, he sits back and flips on the DVD player to showcase one of his latest designs.

"I call it the 'Frozen Fountain,'" he says as an ice-chal cube appears on the screen, the powdery-gray icicles forming and vanishing in what appears to be a fast-forward version of a natural evolutionary process.

The fountain consists of a refrigeration system housed in a steel cube. Water is pumped over the top and as it slides down the sides of the frozen cube, the ice grows and mutates. The fountain also comes with a remote control, which controls a "robotic metal substructure" inside the cube and allows the viewer to tilt the sculpture and change the distribution of water.

"It is art you can play with," he says. "It is controlled a little bit by you and by the ambient temperature." Both Taron Green and the Walt Disney company have purchased his fountains.

While some of O'Donoghue's works may seem elaborately executed, he claims to work out his designs mostly in his head.

"I failed 'Drawing I' in high school," he explains. "And I never learned anything about art. It wasn't until I was 28 that I learned Michelangelo used sketches and trace paper. I thought he sculpted by eye."

Rather than commit his work to paper first, O'Donoghue has trained his mind to translate the image in his head to a physical work.

"Because of the way I work, much of my art is representative," he says. "It is good not to be so literal because the ice won't let you be too literal."

O'Donoghue's unusual methods of design are perhaps the result of the somewhat accidental manner in which he stumbled into the trade. Twelve years ago, O'Donoghue was in charge of decorating buildings at the Hilton Hotel in Huntington, L.I., when he carved his first sculpture. The resident carver wasn't around so

O'Donoghue, who used to work construction, hauled a block of ice out of the freezer. Having become familiar with the chainsaw while "hanging upside down in trees, trimming bushes," O'Donoghue began hacking away at the ice. By morning, he had left behind a horse head sculpture in the freezer for his co-workers to find.

"No one knew it was me," he recalls. "But they were impressed when they found out. And before I knew it, I was being recommended for jobs in Manhattan."

Now, O'Donoghue plies his trade by freezing his own ice in the studio. Along the walls of his basement workspace, rows of metal-vats give birth to crystal-clear 300-pound blocks of ice, which O'Donoghue hauls around with an old-fashioned cast-iron pick.

He whittles away at the blocks exclusively with a chainsaw, carving them freehand and occasionally working with finer tools and a blowtorch for polish.

"We tend to work on ice in the melting stage and then freeze it later," he explains. Each work can take anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour to complete and depending on the size and ambient temperature, can last for up to five hours, although some last much longer.

One of his works lasted for over a week. "It was a two-ton Buddha head, built out of blocks of ice. The joints in the ice were left visible so when it melted, it disintegrated like the sphinx," he said.

But for this temporal visual enjoyment, patrons are willing to pay up to \$2,800 for a single 180-pound sculpture. A lot of the price depends on the size and complexity of the project but more often, O'Donoghue admits with a sigh, clients ask for swans and snowmen. Last year, he sold more than 50 snowmen.

"I thought about contacting the Guinness Book of World Records for most snowmen built in a year," he says, standing outside his studio and looking up at the Manhattan Bridge. "It is funny. Only in New York, can you still sell a snowman in the summertime."

## EVENT

### Awards night

Vocalist Meredith Monk and the Paprika International Dance Ensemble will perform as part of the fourth annual BAXten Arts & Artists in Progress Awards in DUMBO on Nov. 4. The evening, organized by the Brooklyn Arts Exchange in Park Slope, will honor artists, arts managers and arts educators. Each BAXten Award recipient then chooses an individual or organization to receive a Passing It On Award, which is a cash award to assist them in their work.



Both the BAXten and Passing It On award recipients are chosen on the basis that they "have revealed and transformed our creative world. By instigating and enduring change they have deepened the definition of their field and paved the way for others," according to BAX Press and Marketing Manager Colleen Hooper. Among those being honored is the founder of StrebKingside, Elizabeth Streb, who develops interdisciplinary physical performances (pictured).

The BAXten Arts & Artists in Progress Awards will take place at the International Center for Tolerance Education (25 Washington St. at Plymouth Street) on Nov. 4. A cocktail reception for priority ticket holders, awardees and presenters begins at 7 p.m.; the awards ceremony begins at 8 p.m. Priority tickets are \$100. \$50 general and \$25 artists, students and low-income. For more information, call (718) 832-0018 or visit the Web site at [www.bax.org](http://www.bax.org).

—Lisa J. Curtis

## DANCE

### Global grooves

BRICStudio is getting ready for a night of international dance on Oct. 30. Emerging artists from Dance Project's "Out of Space" program will take the stage and spice it up with exotic moves and sounds.

The evening, curated by Marya Weathers, will consist of performances of new works by both solo and group artists and will include dances rooted in cultures as distant as Africa and Asia.

Germual Barnes is a Bessie Award-winning dancer who will perform "Ready..." a dance that puts a special twist on love and commitment. Daman Harun, a Malaysian-born choreographer, will examine relationships and self-awareness in his solo of re-discovery. The Usama Dance Company, formed of 8- to 17-year-olds, will introduce the audience to two West-African dances, "Liberte" and "Makuru."

Performing "Eyes," dance-choreographer Smriti Patel (pictured) will combine classical Indian dance with American contemporary dance moves, focusing on the use of eyes and eyebrows, common in the Indian classical tradition "abhinaya." Patel also uses her voice to add a unique touch to her style.

The BRICStudio is located on the second floor of 57 Rockwell Place, between Fulton Street and DeKalb Avenue in Fort Greene. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students with valid ID. For reservations call (718) 855-7882, ext. 5. For more information, see the Web site [www.brickonline.org](http://www.brickonline.org).

—Alja Grodzinski

## SHOPPING

### Craft fair

The Bay Ridge Festival of the Arts will bring handmade art to the home as well as wearable art to the Union Church of Bay Ridge on Nov. 6, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The "Pre-Holiday Fair of Artisan Crafts."

The Bay Ridge Festival started at this church 40 years ago, so we are delighted that this event is there again," said Union Church Pastor Amy Speers, who also makes earthenware vessels and tiles.

Among the items for sale are jewelry by Joann Ammirano (pictured), stained glass by Kathleen Crickshanks, quilts and place-mats by Angelina Roth, notebooks by Bill Rehberg and much more.

Proceeds from the sale will support the Bay Ridge Festival Scholarship Fund for college entrants in the arts and the Children's Camp Fund of Union Church, which provides scholarships for children to spend one or two weeks at a Presbyterian camp in Dutchess County in the summer. For more information, call (718) 745-0438 or visit [www.bria.com](http://www.bria.com). The Union Church of Bay Ridge is located at 8101 Ridge Boulevard at 81st Street.

—Lisa J. Curtis



Tennis anyone? O'Donoghue at work with a chainsaw in his Plymouth Street studio.

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# BROOKLYN Diner

Neighborhood  
Dining Guide

This week:  
COURT STREET

## Brooklyn Bread Cafe

436 Court St. at Second Place, (718) 403-0234  
(Cash only) Salads, sandwiches, and wraps  
\$3.50-\$9.99

"Everything here is baked on the premises," boasts Brooklyn Bread Cafe co-owner Sal Cona. With its fresh breads and stuffed wraps, the cafe aims to please everyone. Try the vegetarian sandwich, a combination of roasted eggplant, fresh mozzarella, roasted red peppers and sun-dried tomatoes loaded onto a brick-oven hero or regular roll. There is also a grilled chicken sandwich with fresh mozzarella, arugula, roasted peppers, oil and balsamic vinegar. For dessert, enjoy an array of cookies, pastries and cakes. Sidewalk seating is available. Open daily.

## Fragole Ristorante

394 Court St. at First Place, (718) 522-7133  
www.fragoleristorante.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa)  
Entrees: \$9.50-\$13.95

At Fragole, Chef Pauline Veronika cooks up a mix of northern and southern Italian cuisine. Still a favorite among customers at Fragole is the fettuccine Bella Elena, homemade noodles with sweet sausage, tomato, cream and peas. For dessert, try Fragole's blood orange tiramisu, a refreshing "pick-me-up" or the homemade cannoli stuffed with buffalo ricotta. The "special" lunch menu, offered seven days a week from noon to 4 p.m., will save you from 20 to 30 percent off the regular price, according to owner Andrea Rodas. Fragole is open for lunch and dinner daily. Check Web site for daily specials. Delivery available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

## Frankie's 457 Spuntino

457 Court St. at Liquor Street, (718) 403-0033  
(Cash only) Entrees: (small plates) \$5-\$9 (large plate) \$11-\$15

"I dream about a spot where I was in Japan," Frank Falconelli, who co-owns the restaurant with Castroville, told GO Brooklyn dining critic Tina Barry. "And as I walked along Court Street, there it was. Having found their dream location, the two Franks transformed an old bar with a turn-of-the-century black-and-white tile in the back into an inviting space with a tin ceiling, mahogany bar, back garden and a view of the old "smitty's" shop.

"Ah, you're making a 'spuntino' Italian slang for casual place for a snack or a meal," said Falconelli's grand ma, Ann Marucci, summing up the partners' concept: small plates of Italian curli, meats, artisanal cheeses, sandwiches made on Sullivan Street Bakery bread, a couple of cocktails each day and inexpensive Italian wines by the glass and bottle. "All [wines] under \$30," said Falconelli. Open daily for lunch and dinner and Saturdays and Sundays for brunch.

## Le Petit Cafe

502 Court St. at Nelson Street, (718) 596-7060  
www.lepetitcafe.us (Cash only) Entrees: \$5.95-\$8.25

At Le Petit Cafe, customers have choices. Chef Ruben offers an array of soups, salads, omelets and sandwiches to satisfy every appetite. A proud producer of the panini, Le Petit offers 18 different combinations of the pressed sandwich. Many customers flock to Le Petit for the chili, a delicious blend of vegetable and beef chunks served hot and spicy with warm ciabatta bread on the side. Customers also love the choices they have in creating their own omelets (served with a choice of salad or home fries on the side). For vegetarians, Le Petit offers a homemade veggie burger. Open Sunday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. (kitchen closes at 7 p.m.) and from Thursday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

## Marco Polo Ristorante

345 Court St. at Union Street, (718) 552-5015  
www.marcopoloristorante.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$18-\$25

One of Brooklyn's most elegant dining rooms, Marco

★ = Full review available at

**Brooklyn  
papers.com**

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



Combo plates of cheese, meats and more at Frankie's 457 Spuntino.

Polo boasts valet parking, a formally dressed and knowledgeable wait staff and a sophisticated menu that reflects the taste of its owner, Joe Chicco, a veteran restaurateur. Marco Polo has an Italian menu that includes an array of hot and cold appetizers, soups, salads, homemade pasta, fish, chicken, veal, steak and chops prepared by chef Bruno Milone. The dessert wagon offers pastries, cakes, tortes, fruits, sorbet and homemade gelato. Marco Polo is best known for its tableside preparation. At your table, the fettuccine al vino rosso, or red wine fettuccine, is tossed in a Parmesan cheese wheel. For dessert, the strawberry Bamba made with fresh berries, champagne and sugar is heated over a pan and then rolled into a crepe and topped with ice cream right before your eyes. Marco Polo is open daily for lunch and dinner.

## Marquet Patisserie

221 Court St. at Warren Street, (718) 855-1289  
(AmEx) Pastries: \$1.25-\$4. Cakes: \$16-\$22

Take your gourmet coffee and baked goods to go from these charming pastries — both the Cobble Hill and Fort Greene locations are offshoots of husband-and-wife team Jean-Pierre Marquet and Lynne Guller's Marquet in Manhattan. Co-owner Caliste D'Office says selections include everything from raspberry mousses for one to sandwiches fresh mozzarella, roasted chicken, turkey breast, to name a few to long or tart and cakes for the whole family. Their sister cafe is located in Fort Greene at 680 Fulton St. in South Portland Avenue, (718) 596-2018. Prices may differ at Fort Greene and Manhattan locations. Open daily.

## Osaka

272 Court St. at Douglas Street, (718) 643-0044  
(MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.50-\$48

Don't be fooled by the splatter-painted sound baffles and the glittering sixteen throw pillows when you enter Osaka. Interior design may not be high here, but taste clearly is. Osaka serves an array of sushi, sashimi and maki rolls that vary from simple to opulent. Sushi detectors may dive for kitchen entrees like the broiled black cod or sautéed rock shrimp. "Lunch Box" special is offered from noon to 3 p.m. Delivery and takeout available. Open daily.

## Queen

84 Court St. at Livingston Street, (718) 596-5955  
www.queenrestaurant.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14-\$27

Now in its 47th year, Queen recently underwent a facelift to bring its decor up to the high standards set by its traditional but not staid Italian menu. Just a hop and a skip from Borough Hall, Queen has a three-course, \$23.99 prix fixe lunch menu for the business crowd, offered until 6 p.m. everyday. Dinner features sumptuous fare, like homemade specialty ravioli that change weekly and seasonal dishes like chicken breasts dusted with parmesan and a sauté of fresh peas, shallots and white wine. Brothers Pasquino and Vincent Vitello, who took over operations from their father, Anthony, impress with their long list of daily specials, too. Open daily.

## Quercy

242 Court St. at Baltic Street, (718) 243-2151  
(AmEx, DC, MC, V) Entrees: \$12-\$26

Ooh la la — French food cooked by a real Frenchman in Cobble Hill. Chef-owner Jean-François Frayre claims his cassoulet (meat and bean stew) is "one of the best in the city." Other classic country dishes include foie gras, rabbit stew and beef bourguignon — perfect comfort food for a chilly fall day. Quercy serves a prix-fixe lunch Tuesday through Friday, two courses for \$10.75 and three courses for \$14.75. Quercy offers brunch, too. Saturdays and Sundays, with bric-a-brac, omelets or grilled lamb sausage with roasted apples. In addition to serving dinner daily, Quercy serves lunch Tuesdays through Friday and brunch on Saturdays and Sundays.

# Family affair

Great American dishes in country kitsch setting bring diners to Williamsburgh Cafe

By Tina Barry  
for The Brooklyn Papers

**O**f all the Brooklyn restaurants I've reviewed, the Williamsburgh Cafe may be the most puzzling. From the outside, the restaurant resembles any other eatery in the neighborhood, with a few locals drinking beer at tables on the sidewalk.

Open the door, and you've stepped into a generic saloon-style restaurant on steroids.

To be seated in one of the dining areas one walks through several large, wood-covered rooms replete with old photos of the neighborhood. Wheels and farm tools are suspended from the ceiling beneath enough plastic pots with hanging ivy to start a small nursery. Near the raw bar are garden figurines of girls and boys that should have remained in grandma's backyard. The only thing missing in this ode to suburban restaurants is a salad bar.

If the decor is an ironic nod to hipsters' small town dining experiences, then the intended audience isn't getting the joke. While a few neighborhood folk sit out doors and dine in, most of the clientele appears to be family groups from other neighborhoods. The waitstaff, however, is culled from the most attractive, personable area talent. Our waitress, Estelle, wore pigtail, a tattoo and, she confessed, the swan pinned to her blouse was a bathroom decal.

With an interior design that references Middle America, one would imagine potato skins and Alfredo dishes being de rigueur dining here. And, there are enough familiar plates (although nothing Alfredo), to please the masses. For the rest of us who prefer more imaginative fare, Whitney Dane, formerly of Amnio, a casual, market-driven restaurant in Pasadena, Calif., offers nightly specials that are thoughtfully conceived and carefully prepared.

The restaurant offers a raw bar with oysters and clams that are as sparkingly fresh as any you'll find in a seaside cafe. Dousing those ice-cold oysters — a hefty Bayonet Point from Nova Scotia with a bracing briny flavor and subtle, creamy smaller Hard Clams from Washington State — gave me a shiver of please-



Country comfort: Williamsburgh Cafe chef Whitney Dane offers familiar dishes and seasonal fresh fruit cobbler. The cafe's dining room is an oasis of vintage farm tools and plants in this rapidly gentrifying industrial neighborhood.

ure. Dabbing the shellfish with tart mignonette (made with champagne vinegar and shallots) and spicy Bloody Mary sauce enhanced their clean taste.

Dane uses rounds of creamy baby mozzarella in her cheese and onion-grilled pepper appetizer. Each little mound is topped with half a briny olive and scattered with big basil leaves.

Had this dish a million times? So have I, but with cheese so pure and milky, fruity and tart olive oil and dabs of basil pesto coloring everything — what could be better?

Dane gives fried rings of tender calamari a nutty crunch with the addition of sesame seeds to the batter. A chili orange sauce lent a pleasing citrus note. The squid is served with an imaginative medley of strawberries, fresh peas and lettuce that needed more lemon tarragon



Williamsburgh Cafe chef Whitney Dane offers familiar dishes and seasonal fresh fruit cobbler. The cafe's dining room is an oasis of vintage farm tools and plants in this rapidly gentrifying industrial neighborhood.

ing to hold it together.

I had a moment of shock when the entire of wild salmon, surrounded by a bright red sauce, was brought to the table. I was served a similar-looking dish a couple of years back at a now-defunct Downtown Brooklyn restaurant, when a drunken chef topped salmon with sliced

strawberries in a sweet strawberry sauce. Dane's version included a dull red wine butter sauce that scored points for not containing strawberries. She uses wild white salmon, which has a stronger taste than the farm-raised. It's very good. I wasn't as thrilled with the

hodgepodge of carrot and zucchini slaw mixed with asparagus spears and string beans. Everything was fresh and sautéed until just crisp, but the huge mound of vegetables overwhelmed the plate.

I can't find fault with a juicy half

chicken infused with tart lemon and garlic that sported a perfect, crisp skin. Cloves of sweet, slow-cooked garlic topped the chicken. Grilled red and green peppers and creamy polenta mixed with Parmesan made complementary partners.

If a special of lentils and beets, topped with a dollop of warm goat cheese, are on the menu, try it. The lentils are delicately seasoned with cinnamon, mixed with crisp fresh peas, chives and slivers of burgundy wine-soaked beets that add an earthy depth to the dish. The lentils make a plate to share for the entire table.

To end your meal, Dane offers delicious seasonal fruit cobbler. New for the fall are the pumpkin-hazelnut and roasted fig cobbler. The Williamsburgh Cafe isn't the hippest-looking restaurant you'll encounter in Williamsburg or any other Brooklyn neighborhood. If eating in a cutting edge room is important to you, then look elsewhere. But, if you're out for the evening with your mother, or just a friend or two, and you have a yen for big servings of good American food, you'll be pleased with the experience.

# Tuscan son

In Italy, Scottadito means "finger blistering" and refers to lamb chops hot off the grill that are so tasty no one can wait for them to cool. The word could apply to any number of rustic dishes offered at Scottadito Osteria Toscana, a new Tuscan restaurant that opened in September on Union Street in Park Slope.

Scottadito's chef and co-owner, Tuscany-born Paolo Nozzoli, most recently of the East River Cafe in New York City, offers hearty, hard-to-resist dishes that are not commonplace around the Slope. Hog jaws "pinnacle" are used in a sauce with plum tomatoes and pecorino over house-made pasta; and there's a slow-roasted suckling pig served with polenta and Swiss chard. One can order several varieties of artisanal Italian cheeses and among the desserts, the panna cotta is infused with saffron and vanilla then driz-

zled with aged balsamic vinegar.

Co-owner Michele (Mi-KEL'-lee) Di Bari hired his brother Nardino, a contractor and carpenter, to create the feeling of a rustic, Tuscan cantina. Working with Brooklyn developer Donald Minerva, Nardino added exposed wood beams, brick walls and handcrafted the tables from salvaged wood. Even the chef's mother got into the act. The exquisite leather menus (pictured) are a gift from "Mama Nozzoli" who had the items handcrafted in her family's factory in Tuscany.

Scottadito Osteria Toscana (788A Union St. between Sixth and Seventh avenues) accepts cash only. Entrees: \$12-\$22. The restaurant serves dinner daily. For reservations (six or more) and additional information, call (718) 636-4800.

— Tina Barry

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# Dreaming of India

Meckler's 'Passage to India' has imaginative set and music

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

During a stay in India in the mid-1990s, director Nancy Meckler recalled E.M. Forster's classic "A Passage to India," which she had read many years earlier, and began to fantasize about putting it on stage.

Two years ago, Meckler's company, Shared Experience, used the stage adaptation by Martin Sherman (who received a 2004 Tony nomination for Best Book of a Musical for "The Boy From Oz") to create the production that is having its New York City premiere at BAM's Harvey Theater on Nov. 2.

Sherman's play, like the novel, captures the tensions that arise when a young Indian, Dr. Aziz, an admirer of the British colonialists, is falsely accused of sexually assaulting an English woman, Adela Quested. The incident gives rise to hysterical racial prejudice in both the Indian and British populations. At the same time, there is a strong mystical and religious flavor to the work, based on the confluence of Islam and Hinduism in that country.

New York-born-and-raised Meckler, who has lived in England for the past 30 years, brings to the story her distinctive performance style that unites physical and text-based theater.

"We're always very interested in expressing what's going on inside people physically," Meckler told GO Brooklyn. "Although the visual and physical life of the characters is explored, so is the text. The text is not secondary. It is still major."

Meckler talked about two sequences when two characters go into the Marabar Caves and have very different experiences: "We looked at the book, and to a certain extent, it's almost as if the cave represents the subconscious. We decided to have a line of people representing the cave. Each time the characters face them, the characters see something hidden, such as desire or fear."



Shared humanity: Director Nancy Meckler says that minor adjustments to white linen costumes transform the characters from Indians to Britons in her staging of "A Passage to India."

Music, lighting and set all combine to give the production a dreamlike quality.

"Two Indian musicians are onstage watching the action. One plays an Indian drum — tabla — and the other improvises on an Indian violin.

There is music, both live and pre-recorded throughout the play," she said. "The set is made of beaten bronze, scored and etched so it has an atmospheric feel. [A heavy, dark-gray drape backdrop also creates a metallic effect.] There is complex lighting similar to 'Anna Karenina' [Shared Experience's BAM debut at

the 1998 Next Wave Festival] that constantly transforms the set."

Meckler, who has also worked in film ("Sister My Sister" in 1994 and "Alive and Kicking" in 1997), readily concedes the cinematic influences in her stage work.

"When you watch our scenes on stage, they melt into each other, much like film. We can slide into a different place and time in a minute," she explained.

In the first act, the back wall and a row of tables become a mosque, country house, cave, station, train, gardens with a fountain and a hospital.

This same fluidity also applies to the costume changes. "In the beginning, all the characters are dressed in white linen, like Indians," said Meckler. "They remain in white linen throughout the play, but

they do little things to their costumes to turn themselves into other characters. One minute they're Indians, the next minute they're Brits. Some Asians play Britons and some Britons play Asians."

Meckler, whose son — SoHo Rep artistic director Daniel Aukin — lives in Boerum Hill, said she started working on "A Passage to India" before 9-11.

"At that time, the book [written in 1924] didn't seem politically relevant. Now some lines seem so relevant people think Sherman wrote them," said Meckler. "So much of the work is about misunderstandings between different people and the characters who think they can reach across the divide."

At a time when both the world and our own nation are so decisively divided, "A Passage to India" couldn't be more topical.

## THEATER

A Shared Experience's production of "A Passage to India" runs Nov. 2 through Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25, \$40 and \$60. BAM Harvey Theater is located at 651 Fulton St. between Ashland Place and Rockwell Place in Fort Greene. For more information, call (718) 626-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

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# Receding 'Hair'-line

Sixties musical at Gallery Players is showing its age

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

When "Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical" first opened off-Broadway at the Public Theater in 1967, long hair, pot, income, pseudo-nycticism and political activism were the staples of a generation that thought it was about to change the world forever. Watching the shenanigans of the shaggy crew onstage in the Gallery Players' revival, it's easy to see why they were so wrong.

This is not to say that Jerome Ragni and James Rado, who wrote the book and lyrics for the musical, were unaware of the hypocrisy beneath the flowers and the love-ins. Songs like "Easy to Be Hard," which addresses the mean-spiritedness of people who care about strangers but not the people who love them, or "Frank Milk," the lament of an abandoned girlfriend, make the darker side of the hippie movement abundantly clear.

But the writing is so confused and the plot so incoherent it's impossible to tell which side the writers are coming down on — or if they even know themselves. Still, if the dialogue is inane and dated, much of Galt MacDermot's music still sparkles and many of the lyrics are quite moving.

Director Steven Smeltzer has put a big cast of talented singers, dancers and actors on the small Gallery Players' stage. In fact, there are so many people on the stage at one time it can be difficult to distinguish the choreography from the crowd. What's more, the sound system is so poor and the band is so loud, it's often hard to hear the words over the music.

Nonetheless, the cast has a



'Good Morning Sunshine': Aly Wirth as Jeanie, Paul Lane as Claude, Logan Tracey as Sheila and Barrett Hall as Berger in The Gallery Players production of "Hair."

great deal of youthful energy, and numbers like "I Got Life," "Good Morning Sunshine" and "Let the Sunshine In" will still send shivers down the spines of aging baby boomers. It's curious to note that

— or if they even know themselves.

## THEATER

The Gallery Players' production of "Hair" runs through Nov. 7, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 3 pm. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$12 children under 12 and seniors. The Gallery Players are located at 199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope. For more information, call (718) 595-0547.

While "Hair" has been praised and condemned for many different reasons, little mention has been made of its homoerotic and misogynic overtones — both of which were emphasized (perhaps unintentionally) in this production (and, for that matter, perhaps on Broadway too, something this 18-year-old future reviewer didn't get at the time). When the guys — Claude

(Paul Lane), Berger (Barrett Hall), Hubert (Keith Broughton) — preen and flirt, it's mostly for other guys. The women are shy and large pitiful — Sheila (Logan Tracey) is abused by Berger, the guy she is "hung up" on, and Jeanie (Aly Wirth) is pregnant. When the Supremes, who were the sexiest things on six legs in their prime, are depicted in "Hair," those lovely bodies are made into Siamese triplets attached by the one shapeless dress they wear. And at least one male makes it perfectly clear the object of his lust is Mick Jagger.

There's a lot of pawing and prancing in "Hair." But there's little real emotion and certainly no love. More than anything else, "Hair" is like the erotic fantasy of a gay college kid.

So what does "Hair" have? Well, there's some great music, a few funny scenes ("Abie Baby," "White Boys" and "Black Boys" — when you can catch the words), tons of

high jinx (an uptight middle-America couple turns out to be something very different than expected; during Claude's trip to Washington, D.C., he meets George Washington, John Wilkes Booth and Scarlett O'Hara) and lots of shock value (name the obscenity and it's probably here).

There are also those who will take comfort in the musical's anti-war message. But they will find no guidance here for our own woes. The cry of these kids is more like howling at the moon than a call to action.

If the first weekend of "Hair's" run is any indication of the future, the production will be quite successful. Life is always a little rosier in retrospect, especially for those who were so stoned at the time they don't have much memory anyway. And as for those too young to remember the '60s, it's nice to know your parents were once doing all those things they're now afraid their children may be doing.

## Puglia resources

From Nov. 2 to Nov. 12, Marco Polo Ristorante will offer a menu featuring the foods and wines of Italy's Puglia region, located on the heel of the boot-shaped country.

Marco Polo chef Bruno Milone (inset) will be joined by visiting Pugliese chef Nicola Martiniello to cook the menu, which predominantly features seafood.

Martiniello (of Mola Di Bari) and Milone (of Altamura, also in Puglia [POOL-yah]) will serve up antipasti such as blended artichoke with white rabbit sauce or sopria (cuttlefish) stuffed with ricotta Molese style and entrees such as medallions of monk fish served over a layer of potatoes with an array of seafood (pictured, foreground) or sheep stew cooked in wine with pureed chick peas, red beets, garlic, oil and red pepper.

Marco Polo is owned by Joseph Chinico, who founded the Carroll Gardens restaurant more than two decades ago. Marco Polo Ristorante is located at 345 Court St. at Union Street. For reservations, call (718) 852-5015. — Lisa J. Curtis



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Oct. 30: "Halloween with Costume Parade" with Sprinkle Girls, 9:30 p.m. FREE. Live DJ. Sprinkle Girls, 10:30 p.m. FREE. Bad host, 11:30 p.m. FREE. Oct. 31: Ernst Anderson, 9:30 p.m. FREE.

## Lanzetta Bar

426 Lorimer St. at 1st Ekt Street in Williamsburg.  
(718) 302-6555. www.lanzetta.com  
Nov. 5: The Join Barbecue Show presents Daphne, 10 p.m., \$5.

## BAM Cafe

30 Lafayette Ave. at Grand Avenue in Fort Greene.  
(718) 634-4100. www.bam.org  
Oct. 30: Steady Lively, 9 p.m. \$10. 10:30 p.m. minimum. Nov. 5: Steady Lively with C. Hopkins. 9 p.m. \$10. 10:30 p.m. minimum. Nov. 6: Steady Lively with C. Hopkins. 9 p.m. \$10. 10:30 p.m. minimum.

## Barbes

304 North St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177. www.barbesbar.com  
Tuesday: Soulful Soul Party, 9 p.m. Wednesday: "Night of the Bearded Ladies," 7 p.m. Oct. 30: The Top Ties, 9 p.m. FREE. The Zagari, 10:30 p.m. FREE. Oct. 31: The Top Ties, 9 p.m. FREE. The Zagari, 10:30 p.m. FREE. Nov. 5: "Soul as in the House" with Josh Carter, Mulberry, 9 p.m. FREE. The Zagari, 10:30 p.m. FREE. Nov. 6: "Soul as in the House" with Josh Carter, Mulberry, 9 p.m. FREE. The Zagari, 10:30 p.m. FREE. Nov. 7: "Soul as in the House" with Josh Carter, Mulberry, 9 p.m. FREE. The Zagari, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Black Betty

306 Metropolitan Ave. at Avenue Street in Williamsburg, (718) 599-0434. www.blackbetty.com  
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## Bluestone Bar & Grill

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## Boudoir Bar

271 North St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 624-8278. www.boudoirbar.com  
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## Europa Night Club

101 Avenue C at Avenue C in East Williamsburg, (718) 383-5723. www.europanightclub.com  
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## Five Spot Soul Food Restaurant

459 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue in Clinton Heights, (718) 622-0202. www.fivespotrestaurant.com  
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## free103point9 Gallery

301 South St. at Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 622-7035. www.free103point9.com  
Oct. 30: Maria Chavez, Chris Forsythe, Jaime Fennell, Sharon Harris, Nina Mottley, and others, 7 p.m. FREE.

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245 Seventh Ave. at Third Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 369-3659. www.funkymonkeybrooklyn.com  
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## National Restaurant

271 Brighton Beach at First Avenue in Brighton Beach, (718) 646-1225. www.national.com  
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## Northrix

66 N. 3rd St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-0535. www.northrix.com  
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330 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Park in Fort Greene, (718) 622-7450.  
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# Psychosis' madness '4:48 Psychosis' poetically renders the internal anguish of three ill patients

By Paulanne Simmons  
For The Brooklyn Papers

Sarah Kane's one-hour

Warehouse Oct. 26-31, goes

a long way towards

correcting the

all-too-common

ignorance of the

devastating

ramifications of

mental illness.

Written in an evocative

style that borders on

poetry, the Royal

Court Theatre production,

directed by James Macdonald,

features a staging that echoes

the gut-wrenching dialogue.

Jeremy Herbert has designed a set

with an angled mirror that projects

the characters' emotions onto a

screen at the back of the stage.

Thus the actors seem to be

suspended over themselves in a

mindfully quality.

The screen, as the mind, both

re-creates the full, one-dimensional

world of the psychotic

and also depicts the

connected nature of

psychotic thought.

At the same time,

it demonstrates how the mentally

ill can be victims of society,

manipulated like puppets at the

will of the so-called

healthy.

Revealing how

re-creating shows, cars

and people coming

and going on the

stage, the production

is not just a

representation of a

reality that can

never quite

reach.

From time to time

the screen breaks up into

the kind of static one sees on a

television when it's not set on

channels. The reference to a

television set is not just

an allusion to the

medium, but also to the

medium's ability to

manipulate the

viewer's perception

of reality.

Transitions

between scenes are

smooth and

seamless, as if the

viewer is watching

a continuous

stream of events.

The production

is a masterpiece

of acting and

direction, and

the Royal Court

Theatre's production

of "4:48 Psychosis"

is a masterpiece

of acting and

direction, and

the Royal Court

Theatre's production

of "4:48 Psychosis"

is a masterpiece

of acting and

direction, and

the Royal Court

Theatre's production

of "4:48 Psychosis"

is a masterpiece

of acting and

direction, and

the Royal Court

Theatre's production

of "4:48 Psychosis"

is a masterpiece

# The Brooklyn Papers PAREN

## Stamping out finger sucking

**Q:** My stepdaughter, 8, sucks her thumb while she's riding in the car, watching television, sleeping and even talking. Not only is it annoying, it's pushing out her front teeth. She doesn't suck her thumb at school or while playing with other kids. How can we help her break the habit? — a stepmother

**A:** When peer pressure isn't enough to eliminate the deep-seated urge, a child has to want to stop sucking her thumb and be a part of the solution. More fuss and nagging mean more anxiety and a losing battle against the habit.

June Speltz says her daughter was ready to quit when she was 5, after two younger kids said she looked like a baby when she sucked her thumb.

"Sucking her thumb was almost as habitual as breathing," Speltz says. "Just saying, 'Stop sucking your thumb' was a waste of energy and irritating to the whole family."

In addition to rewards, some readers suggest enlisting a dentist or orthodontist, along with addressing the child's anxiety. Have an orthodontist show the child, with pictures, the long-term damage thumb-sucking can cause.

"It was simply so comforting and enjoyable that I could never force myself to stop fully, until I finally agreed to have my teeth straightened with braces," she recalls. "It was the best thing I

### Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flieger

ever did. Once the braces were on, the habit was kicked."

Once parents identify when their child is likely to suck her thumb, they can offer alternatives to keep her hands busy or covered — gloves or bandages at bedtime and "TV toys" such as beading or sewing projects to keep hands busy. Take her to the library to do some of her homework, since she's less likely to suck her thumb in public.

Another, more expensive option to investigate: A "thumb-habit appliance" that makes the thumb no longer fit comfortably in the mouth.

Another mother says her daughter's finger-sucking habit was so engrained she didn't even know she was doing it, but it was

affecting her teeth. A mini Echinacea-Scotch occupied her hands during TV time or car riding. Also the dentist installed an appliance in the roof of her mouth to help with the spacing of her teeth. The appliance had wiring that discouraged her daughter's habit while she was asleep.

After permanent teeth come in, vigorous sucking may cause problems with the proper growth of the mouth and alignment of the teeth, according to the American Dental Association. Intense sucking can also change the roof of the mouth.

Studies to measure anxiety in kids have shown that parents underestimate how much their children worry, and how alone they feel at times. Children often suck their thumbs when feeling insecure or seeking comfort. Focus on correcting the cause of the anxiety, the dental association suggests.

"Sucking a thumb is a handy-all-the-time security blanket. The stepmother needs to see when this little girl is in need of support," says a mother of two.

At age 8, her parents took her to a "fancy dentist," who told her she had to quit sucking her thumb by the end of the summer. She switched to biting her fingernails, later took up smoking for awhile as a teenager, and now, even at age 51, she has not forgotten the agony of trying to give up sucking her thumb.

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 Wednesday, November 3  
 Thursday, November 11  
 Monday, November 15  
 Tuesday, November 16  
 Thursday, November 18  
 Monday, November 22

Please note that Lower School tours are for adults only.

# That was the race that wasn't

By Jess Wisloski  
 The Brooklyn Papers

It was the closest thing to a debate that will be held among the three candidates for the 57th Assembly District seat in Fort Greene and Prospect Heights, pitting pseudo-incumbent Democrat Roger Green, who resigned last June after pleading guilty to ripping off taxpayers through falsified travel vouchers, against Susan Metz, who is running as a write-in candidate after failing to file her nominating petitions on time, and Republican Rick Ocasio.

Metz, wearing an embroidered dashiki, was on time for the Oct. 18 meeting of the Fort Greene Association at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church. Soon after a spokesman introduced him, Ocasio walked in wearing a beige suit and necktie. Green, in a modest red sweater, plaid shirt and cardigans, arrived after the question-and-answer session had begun but was allowed time to give a brief presentation. The forum focused first on Green's fall from grace before moving quickly toward Forest City Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards development.

Community members were quick to push Green, who held the seat for 22 years before resigning, for answers about his conviction. The state brought criminal charges in February, after an investigation uncovered that Green had falsified his travel expense vouchers. Residents in attendance demanded a public explanation, something Green has been criticized for offering in the wake of his guilty plea to petty larceny, which put him on three years probation and required him to pay a \$2,000 fine, and a repayment of \$3,000 to the state.

"I really want to know why you resigned," said Raul Rodriguez, a Prospect Heights resident. "You have to regret a lot of trust."

Green claimed the only crime he committed was taking a van ride on Dec. 19, 1999, offered by a Florida-based lobbyist group, from Brooklyn to Albany while he was serving on the Black and Puerto Rican caucus, and filing in his expense report that he had paid \$900 when it was actually provided for free.

The state's prosecutors charged he filed bogus claims for about 30 trips between Albany and New York.

"I've apologized for the error I made, but it was not an intentional misstatement," said Green, who claimed he was prosecuted because he is black. "There is a double-standard of justice. For some people it is lessened, and for others, we live under the cloud of a prejudicial system."

Green said he decided to take the plea deal, which forced him to resign, after the press harassed his 90-year-old mother.

As for the Atlantic Yards plan, Green was accused by an audience member of switching sides — from being against the project to favoring it — and engaging in discussions with developers.

"I came to the conclusion that it was going to happen. As a result, we need to be at the table to make sure there is something we can get from it," he said as several audience members groaned and hissed.

Ocasio echoed Green's sentiment, but without the call for a community benefits agreement.

"I'm generally for the project, but there are some reservations I have," said the Republican from Flatbush.

Asked whether he would advocate for city-level review of future state developments in Brooklyn, he said he didn't think he'd have the power.

"Am I going to make a difference? I don't think so," he said. "If we think we're going to send me up to Albany with a water gun to put out a big flame there, it's not going to happen."

Facing the same question, Metz, an opponent of the plan, ticked off on her fingers her stance.

"I'm concerned about the quality of life. I want no public financing, no abuse of eminent domain," she said. "We organize, we litigate, we publicize, we lie down in front of the trains if we have to," she said, receiving a round of applause.

Even after the debate, local firebrand and anti-arena plan activist Patti Hagan still finds Green's secrecy bothersome.

"I'm very fond of Roger. I love him dearly, and I think he's lying," she said following the meeting.

# CRUISE...

Continued from page 1

Ascher, are anticipated as a result of the Brooklyn development by as early as next summer, at which point the terminal would be "fully operational." But just when there will be a cruise tenant to supply the jobs was still up in the air.

Testifying after Ascher, Carnival CEO Howard Frank said he did not anticipate opening for business on the Brooklyn berth until spring 2006, nearly a year later than the city's estimate.

"We've committed to our schedules for 2005 already," he said, when asked by Yassky when the jobs would become available.

Kenneth Adams, president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, clarified that the lines themselves wouldn't do most of the hiring, but most jobs would be "share-side" positions, and include "all those categories of jobs that are local because they serve the ship," including taxis, limousines, terminal operations, the provisioning of ships, logistics, communications professional services and much more.

Adams said the figure of 600 projected jobs was obtained using the Queen Mary II cruise liner, the largest in the world, as a model for the size of ship that would be docking at Pier 12, and suggested EDC may hire subcontractors that could work with area businesses and his agency to ensure local hiring.

And while EDC officials said they would be taking operational control of those piers, that, too, seems to be in dispute.

The Port Authority, which occupies some of the piers from the city in leases that run roughly through 2026 — and owns others has yet to issue a lease to the EDC. While Ascher said they anticipated a lease would be signed within "the next few weeks," no date has been set.

Yassky suggested the EDC work on wresting pier control from the Port Authority.

"They're city owned, am I right?" Yassky asked.

Ascher said it was a "patchwork" of ownership and noted that discussions had begun to consider breaking the authority's lease on the uplands of Pier 11, parts of Pier 10 and the upland between piers 9 and 10. "It's exactly what we should be doing," she said, but added as much as they want to "take the Port Authority off the hook for its lease obligations," and secure Port Authority-owned land, it would take time.

Additionally, American Stevedoring has been operating without a lease since April, and company officials are also waiting for a commitment from the Port Authority to find out how much longer they will be able to stay.

The problem didn't evade Yassky's notice.

"Since both 11 and 10 are now part of the container terminal lease should we see this as a gradual supplanting of the container terminal by the cruise ship terminal, or is there room for both?" he asked Ascher.

"The understanding is that the pier will morph into a cruise terminal starting in 2007," she replied.

"Whether we build that year or not depends on demand, and the containers will move somewhere else," Ascher said. "Our intention is to build out three berths for cruise, which is what the 20-year master plan says we need, and intend to accommodate."

American Stevedoring spokesman Matthew Yates told The Brooklyn Papers that his company, which has a new president, former city Department of Environmental protection Commissioner Christopher Ward, taking the helm on Monday, isn't too concerned.

"I don't believe it's a threat," that ships would replace the longstanding stevedoring company, Yates said. "We'll see who supports, but it's a long way off," he said, referring to the 20-year plan. He also emphasized there would be room for both businesses on the piers, a point that Yassky had made at the hearing.

"I don't think we should be saying goodbye to 300 or more well-paying jobs at the container terminal," Yassky said.

Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6, also spoke of sharing, and asked that development of Pier 11's new roadway be designated a truck route to lighten the burden on Van Brunt Street, which is currently used for local traffic, bus routes, truck routes, and will become a thoroughfare for the Red Hook area.

Red Hook Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez, who arrived half an hour late to the hearings, said she would become more involved on behalf of her community, which will be the most seriously affected by the pier changes.

"We understand it will be a wonderful thing that will someday be a great economic boost to the city, but right now we have to make sure the community people are represented," she said. "I think the dialogue will just continue, as it did with Ikea."



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